

REMARKS

I. Elections:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 27, 2006, Applicants elect the claims of Group I (1-7, 34-38, and new claims 39-41) and the species identified in the Restriction Requirement as being depicted in Figures 1, 2, and 2A. Elected claims readable on this species include claims 1-7, 34, 35, and new claims 39-41. It should be noted that pending independent claim 1 is also generic to at least the species of Figures 3, 4A, 4B, 5A, 6-11, 16A, and 16B, and pending independent claim 34 is also generic to at least the species of Figures 3, 4A, 4B, and 5A. Although the non-elected and non-readable claims are canceled in this amendment, Applicants reserve the right to pursue any of these claims in one or more divisional or continuation applications.

II. Amendments:

New claims 39-41 are consistent with the elected invention of Group I, and are readable on the species of Figures 1, 2, and 2A. Claims 39-41 are directed to additional aspects of the invention and do not add new matter.

III. Objections:


In regards to the objections to informalities, improper claim sequencing, and non-disclosure of claimed features in the drawing, identified in the March 27, 2006 correspondence, without acquiescing to any of the rejections and without conceding any need for amendments or new drawings, the non-election of claims 12-18 and 25-33 should obviate these objections.

IV. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement:

Additionally, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with this reply. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any and all related fees to deposit account number 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/24/06



Kenneth J. Smith
Reg. No. 45,115